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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

SAMUEL DAVIS and SHAWN RICE,

Defendants.

2:09-CR-78 JCM (NJK)

2:10-520 JCM (NJK)

ORDER

Presently before the court is the government's motion to dismiss without prejudice. (Doc. # 323 in case 2:09-cr-00078; doc. # 77 in case 2:10-cr-00520). The government moves to dismiss *pro se* defendant Shawn Talbot Rice's 28 U.S.C. § 2255 motion. (See doc. # 309 in case 2:09-cr-00078; doc. # 70 in case 2:10-cr-00520). Defendant filed a reply in support of his § 2255 motion. (Doc. # 324 in case 2:09-cr-00078; doc. # 84 in case 2:10-cr-00520).

On July 24, 2012, defendant was convicted by bench trial of conspiracy to commit money laundering, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1956(h), and 13 counts of aiding and abetting money laundering, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 1956(a)(3)(A) and 2 (doc. # 285 in case 2:09-cr-00078); and of four counts of failure to appear, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 3146(a)(1) (doc. # 60 in case 2:10-cr-00520). Sentencing is set in both cases for January 31, 2013. (Doc. # 315 in case 2:09-cr-00078; doc. # 76 in case 2:10-cr-00520).

On November 26, 2012, defendant filed a § 2255 motion in both cases. The government argues that defendant's motion is premature until such time as his convictions become final at the conclusion of direct review or expiration of the time for pursuing direct review. (Doc. # 323 in case

1 2:09-cr-00078; doc. # 77 in case 2:10-cr-00520). As explained by the Eleventh Circuit in *Casaran-*
2 *Rivas*,

3 Section 2255's statutory construction demonstrates that § 2255 was intended to
4 afford strictly post-conviction relief. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 2255(a), (f). First, § 2255
5 allows "[a] prisoner in custody under sentence of a court" to challenge that sentence,
6 such that the statutory language itself assumes that the movant already has been
7 sentenced. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 2255(a). Also, § 2255, and the relevant case law, instruct
8 that the time for filing a § 2255 motion begins to run after the direct appeal process
9 is complete, such that the statutory language suggests that pursuit of habeas relief
should follow pursuit of direct-appeal relief. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 2255(f) [citation
omitted]. Likewise, the reasoning cited by the courts who have held that collateral
relief and direct-appeal relief cannot be pursued simultaneously, namely that the
disposition of a direct appeal might render a habeas motion unnecessary, applies with
equal force to pursuing habeas relief before direct-appeal relief. *See, e.g., [United*
States v.] Khoury, 901 F.2d [975,] 976 [(11th Cir. 1990)].

10 *United States v. Casaran-Rivas*, 311 F. App'x 269, 273 (11th Cir. 2009) (unpublished) (vacating
11 district court order that denied on the merits a § 2255 motion filed before sentencing and instructing
12 the district court to dismiss the motion as premature); *see also* 6A FED. PROC., L. ED. § 41:479
13 (2012) ("[a] motion under 28 U.S.C.A. § 2255 may be utilized only to attack *a sentence* as imposed
14") (emphasis added).

15 A § 2255 motion is a motion attacking a prisoner's sentence. Here, defendant has not been
16 sentenced. As such, the court finds defendant's motion to be premature.

17 Accordingly,

18 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that the government's motion
19 to dismiss *pro se* defendant Shawn Talbot Rice's 28 U.S.C. § 2255 motion (doc. # 323 in case 2:09-
20 cr-00078; doc. # 77 in case 2:10-cr-00520) be, and the same hereby is, GRANTED without
21 prejudice.

22 DATED January 22, 2013.

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24 
25 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE